

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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November 5, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Evening Notes

Middle East Situation: The Syrian front remained calm today and Israeli aircraft continued to fly over the front without incident. Several violations of the cease-fire on both the northern and southern sectors of the Egyptian front appeared to indicate a higher level of military activity, but the scale of the fighting is unknown. Israeli aircraft continued to fly over the Egyptian front, however, and have not been noted participating in any of the clashes. Press reports from Tel Aviv cite an Israeli military spokesman who claims that three of the four incidents took place in the northern sector of the east bank -- the first such incidents in that sector since the cease-fire.

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State Dept. review completed

NSA review completed

MORI/CDF C03361321

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-2-

Possible Arab Summit: Ambassador Brown has suggested that the U.S. begin considering means to defuse what is apparently a snowballing Arab effort to convene a summit conference. The Ambassador feels that an Arab conference at this time would be counter-productive to efforts to bring about a Middle East settlement. Any Arab conference in the past has been dominated by hardliners who generally have the influence to push a consensus among the other Arab participants.

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The Washington Star - News: Jeremiah O'Leary reports on your departure today and notes that you will be meeting with Arab leaders in an effort to get formal peace talks started between the Arabs and Israelis.

A Star editorial comments that when the country has been aware for over a year of the existence of an energy crisis, it is unsettling that the Administration has still not gotten around to doing anything about it.

Another Star editorial states that it should not be forgotten that a UN truce-keeping force is basically symbolic in nature, and that continuance of the armistice depends on the combatants' desire for peace, and that of their big-power sponsors.

The Star-News feels that the recent vote in Quebec relieves any immediate fear of a split that could drastically reduce Canada's present and potential importance.

Garry Wills comments that detente was severely tested during the recent Middle East crisis and proved that it can survive.

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